

*Dowling Family*

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# PEA RIVER TRAILS

DEDICATED TO HISTORY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN THE PEA RIVER AREA

VOLUME 13

SPRING 1987

NUMBER 1



MELISSA and JOHN THOMAS  
(Story on page 23)

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Dowling Family History

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PEA RIVER HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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Letters asking for a reply, should always enclose a SASE (stamped, self-addressed envelope. All correspondence should be addressed to:

Pea River Historical and Genealogical Society  
PO Box 628  
Enterprise, Ala-36331-0628

Our Society would welcome any donations of items of a historical nature, and solicit any suggestions that would help us to accomplish our goals.

We are a Non-Profit Organization, thus any donations to us maybe use as deductions from income tax....if within the IRS Code.



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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Pea River Historical and Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization, located in Enterprise, Alabama. Its purpose is to collect, record, preserve, and disseminate the history of the people, places and things of the Pea River Basin.

Membership in the Society, per year, is \$7.50 for an individual, and \$12.00 for a couple. The members are entitled to all of the privileges of the Society, and are to receive copies of the Society Magazine: THE PEA RIVER TRAILS which is published bi-annually in the Spring and Fall. Dues are payable on an annual basis, and extend twelve months from the date of the late payment. You will note on your address label:

Clayton G. Metcalf  
408 North Rawls St.,  
Enterprise, Ala-36330  
E-080186        -S-

The code below the address means that he is a member/subscriber and that his membership expires on August 1, 1986. Let's say that he renew on October 1...then his membership would expire on August 1, 1987. The -S- means member; a -C- means complimentary; an -E- means exchange basis.

Our Society operates a Depot Museum and Gift Shop in downtown Enterprise, and a Welcome Center on US Hwy 84 By-Pass in Enterprise. These facilities are open Mondays through Saturdays at various times...dependant upon the workers' schedules.

The Regular Society Meetings are held on the third Sundays of September, October, November, January, February, March, April, and May at 3 PM-the meeting places to be announced.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Pea River Historical and Genealogical Society/(PRH & GS), PO Box 628, Enterprise, Ala-36331.

The Officers and Board Members for the 1986-87 year:

PRESIDENT- Clayton G. Metcalf, 408 N. Rawls St., Enterprise, Ala-36330  
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2nd VICE-PRES- John J. (Jake) Bonneau, N. Claxton Ave, Elba, Ala-36323  
3rd VICE-PRES- LTC Ron A. Jones, Sr., 100 Leafmore Dr., Enterprise, Ala-36330  
SECRETARY- Mrs. Hilma Harrison, 304 N. Edwards St., Enterprise, Ala-36330  
TREASURER Mr. Guessna G. Harrell, 107 Hillcrest Loop, Enterprise, Ala-36330

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Mrs. Pat (Louise) Jones	Term expires May 1988
Mrs. Mabel Patton	Term expires May 1988
Mrs. Ealon (Tommie) Speigner	Term expires May 1987
Mr. Ben H. Mathis	Term Expires May 1987

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BEN MATHIS

MRS. LOUISE JONES

MRS. ALICE DORAN

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Errata

Children of Lydia Ann Dowling and John Stokes were erroneously shown as Dowlings, rather than Stokes on Page 38 (c).

PRESIDENT'S PAGE  
"SPRINGTIME"

This issue of the "Trails" is my last issue as your President. I have enjoyed serving you in this capacity, and in putting out the magazine for these past two years. My term expires in May, and our nominating committee will immediately begin searching for nominees for the various vacancies. I am sure that they will recommend a good slate for your election at our May meeting. Make a special effort, if you live close enough to Enterprise....to come to our meetings. It encourages the leaders to work harder for the betterment of the Society. Let us all get behind our new officers, whoever they might be, and give them our whole-hearted support.

We sincerely appreciate the support of our advertisers. It makes the publishing of our magazine much less expensive for us, and enables us to do other things with our funds. There are many programs that I was not able to bring about during my tenure as your President. One of these was the establishment of a respectable medical exhibit, utilizing the materials that we have on hand that have been given to us. We badly need some space for future expansion. We have endeavored to secure some footage of the strip immediately behind our Depot for this future expansion, but at the time of this printing....we have NOT been able to acquire this strip. We have had several minor objections...coming from some selfish quarters...which we hope to overcome in the near future.

One of our major accomplishments has been the completion of the George W. Carver Project which had been in "limbo" for a number of years. We were fortunate in securing a bust of Dr. Carver, which is now displayed in our Museum along with other pertinent materials about Dr. Carver's accomplishments.

We also had a second edition of Fred Watson's history of Coffee County.... "COFFEE GROUNDS" printed, the sales of which has gone rather good. We have a quantity of these books....still on hand. If every member would buy one more copy.... we could recover most of our publishing costs. The books we have....are paid for! Think of someone in your family, or a friend, that would like a copy of this book...as a gift....for a birthday, Christmas, or anniversary!

Purposely I have not spent a lot of money during my term of office, since I see the need for some substantial expenditures in the near future...for the building of displays in the Museum, shelves in the Gift Shop, and other things.

We have been promised the donation of a mold, with which we can fabricate some replicas of the Boll Weevil Monument for souvenir sales. I have made an inquiry to a company as to the availability and prices of some caps and T-shirts imprinted with the Boll Weevil Monument on them.

Perhaps the most useful improvement for all of us, has been the purchase of a good copier, on which we can prepare many of our hand-outs, booklets, as well as the extraction of certain things for our members and visitors.

We have had some excellent programs and our Society is now meeting every month except for December. Attendance at most of our meetings has been about normal but we would welcome others...who have not been with us.

We did manage to give you a "bonus" issue of the Trails at Christmastime. We hope that you enjoyed it, and that perhaps we can...in time...publish more than two issues per year. Thank you....for your individual support!

Please take note of the expiration date of your membership and help us by renewing your membership in a timely manner. It saves us money in contacting those who are delinquent. We appreciate and want.....ALL OF YOU!

Most sincerely,

Clayton G. Metcalf

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## THE DOWLING FAMILY

There have been many families among the pioneer settlers of this area. One of these was the Dowling family. Their roots are entwined with a great many other families throughout the Wiregrass.

Our earlier local historians first found the Robert Dowling family in Virginia. Although some said that he was an Irish immigrant, most of those closely associated with the family are confident that the Dowling family were of Scottish extraction.

Research into the family of Robert Dowling indicates that he had two wives, the first of whom (name unknown) bore one known son....William Dowling, in Virginia. After the death of his first wife, Robert Dowling next married Sarah Guinn, some of whose family distinguished themselves in the Revolutionary War.

At about this time they moved down into the Darlington District of SC, settling on Jeffer's Creek. It was here that he accumulated considerable property, reared his family, and died. William must have attained manhood by this time, for he remained in Virginia and after his marriage he, too, moved southward into Barnwell District, SC., where he lived at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

William Dowling's sentiments were with the American colonists, so it was to be expected that he incurred the wrath of the Tories. Some of them waylaid him and murdered him in his own home. William Dowling had three sons: Jabez, Micajah, and Elijah. Little is known of their lives, but it was supposed that they migrated out to the midwest, or west. The Dowling name was well scattered throughout Ohio, Missouri, and Kentucky.

There were five children born to Robert Dowling and Sarah Guinn. These were:

(1) James Dowling-mar Mary Boutwell. They had nine children:

(a) William Hampton Dowling-mar Elizabeth Sarah Watson. They had seven children:

- (i) William Hampton Dowling-mar Mahalia Ogden;
- (ii) Mary Dowling-mar Gillum Walston;
- (iii) Unk dau;
- (iv) Unk dau;
- (v) Margaret Dowling;
- (vi) Frances Dowling;
- (vii) Margaret Dowling;

(b) James Dowling, Jr-mar Jane White. They had five children:

- (i) William Henry Tucker Dowling-mar Jane Ann Cleland; They had nine children: (A) Mary Rebecca Dowling-mar John H. Jones. (B) William Henry Dowling-mar Didamier Johnson; (C) Harriet Adeline Dowling-mar William Tomlinson; (D) Robert Nelson Dowling, Sr-mar Caroline Wester; (E) Hansford Jackson Dowling-mar Eliz. Shirley first-his next wife was Mrs Beulah Tillis; (F) Miles Dowling-died infant; (G) Sarah Eleanor Dowling-mar George W. Thomas; (H) John Bryant Dowling-mar Emily Roberts; (I) Ramson Tucker Dowling-mar Ida Massey.
- (ii) John Dowling-killed at age 15.
- (iii) Audrey Dowling-mar Charles Smith.
- (iv) Rebecca Dowling-mar a \_\_\_\_\_ James.
- (v) Ellen Dowling-1st spouse is not known. She next mar Stephen Denmark.

(c) John Jabez Dowling-mar Susan Barnes. They had ten children:

- (i) James Theophilus Dowling-mar Mary Ann Long;
- (ii) Rennie Dowling-mar William Croft;

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- (iii) William Mattison Dowling-mar Eliz. Harrison;
- (iv) Hester Ann Dowling-mar John Harriett;
- (v) John Jefferson Dowling-died single;
- (vi) Elbert Ligah Dowling-mar Ann Harriett;
- (vii) Julia Dowling-mar 1st Humphrey Moore-next mar J.H. Cope;
- (viii) Mary Dowling-mar Mike Freeman;
- (ix) Oliver Perry Dowling-mar 1st Josephine Prescott-next mar Henrietta Googe;
- (x) Eliza Jane Dowling-died single.

(d) Willis H. Dowling-mar Nancy Cook. They had eight children, but little is known of six of them:

- (i) Joseph Dowling-1st mar Catherine \_\_\_\_, next mar Eliz. Johns.
- (ii) Male Dowling;
- (iii) James Dowling;
- (iv) Julia Dowling-mar Absolum Presnal (sic ?);
- (v) Female;
- (vi) Madison Dowling;
- (vii) Hannah Jane Dowling-1st mar Samuel A. Austin-next mar David Crowell;
- (x) Letitia Dowling-1st mar Thomas D. Owens-next mar Thomas J. Rawls.

(e) Female-no further.

(f) Female-no further.

(g) Lettie (probably Letitia) Dowling. She may have also been named-Charlotte.

(h) Mary (Pollie) Dowling-no further.

(j) Sarah (Sallie) Dowling-mar Edward H. Woodham, Sr., in the Jeffries Creek area of SC before moving to Dale County, Ala.

(2) John Dowling married Nancy Boutwell, by whom he had six sons, and three daughters:

(a) Dempsey Dowling-mar Martha Stokes. They had fourteen children. These were:

- (i) Lacy Dowling-mar Elisha Matthews. They had nine children.
- (ii) Wesley Dowling-mar Amanda E. O'Neal. They had four children.
- (iii) Elizabeth Dowling-died as an infant.
- (iv) Milly Dowling-mar William Cox. They had eleven children.
- (v) Noel Dowling-mar Sarah Delaney McDonald. They had nine children.
- (vi) Fletcher Dowling-mar Caroline Martin. They had four children.
- (vii) Zillah Dowling-mar Samuel D. Hallford. They had eleven children.
- (viii) Martha Dowling-mar Emmanuel Parrish. They had two children.
- (ix) John Dowling-mar Charlotte Brackin. They had nine children.
- (x) Edward Dowling-mar (1st) Anna Oates-(2nd) Maggie A. Barnes. He had nine children.
- (xi) James Dowling-mar Nancy Martin. They had fourteen children.
- (xii) Mary Anna Dowling-mar James Parrish. They had eight children.
- (xiii) Zinnamon Dowling-mar Eliz. Ingraham. They had ten children.
- (xiv) Frances Dowling-mar Mathias Brackin. They had eleven children.

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(b) Elias Dowling-mar twice (1st-Mary \_\_\_\_\_; (2nd) Elizabeth Stewart. They had seven children:

- (i) Hansford Dowling-mar 1st Martha Weaver-2nd Nancy Harrod.
- (ii) Nancy Dowling-mar H.W. Wicker.
- (iii) Emaline Dowling-mar Henry Hendrix.
- (iv) Mary Ann Dowling-mar Henry Hendrix.
- (v) Elias G. Dowling-1st mar Lucille Russell-next ? .
- (vi) Seny Lena Dowling-mar John Davis.
- (vii) Keziah Dowling-died single.

(c) Lydia Ann Dowling-mar John Stokes. They had six children:

- (i) Isaiah Dowling-mar Rebecca Gooden.
- (ii) Jehu Dowling-mar Sarah ? .
- (iii) Burrell C. Dowling-mar 1st Elizabeth ? next mar Mary E. Marsh.
- (iv) William Dowling-mar Amanda ? .
- (v) John O. Dowling-mar Edy ? .
- (vi) Edwin Dowling-mar Martha Jane ? .

(d) Zacharias/Zachary Dowling-thrice mar-(1st) Eliza \_\_\_\_\_ (2nd) Zadie Capp-(3rd) Permelia Head. He had no children.

(e) Allen Dowling-mar Polly Heath. They had five children:

- (i) Sarah Dowling-died at age 18.
- (ii) Hester Dowling-mar 1st ? next mar James N. Suggs.
- (iii) Female Dowling-born ca 1819/30.
- (iv) Francis Asbury Dowling-mar Martha C. Heath.
- (v) Samuel Sewall Dowling-mar Cornelia Ham.

(f) Rhoda Dowling-mar Henry Stokes. They had three children:

- (i) James Wilson Stokes-mar Martha Ann Lee.
- (ii) Seaborn Glenn Stokes-mar Emma Simon Laney.
- (iii) Martha Stokes-mar Phillip King.

(g) Simeon Dowling-died single.

(h) Levi Dowling-mar Ann \_\_\_\_\_. They had twelve children:

- (i) Mary J. Dowling-mar 1st John Savage-next mar Daniel McLean.
- (ii) Caroline Dowling-mar John F. Hooks.
- (iii) Robert S. Dowling-mar Mary S. ? .
- (iv) Unnamed male.
- (v) Sarah J. Dowling-mar a ? Savage.
- (vi) Benjamin L. Dowling-1st mar ? next mar Cena D. West.
- (vii) John W. Dowling-died single.
- (viii) Daniel Bostell Dowling-died single.
- (ix) James Jackson Dowling-mar Mary E. Huckerby.
- (x) Martha W. Dowling-died young.
- (xi) Susan D. Dowling-mar Newton McDaniel.
- (xii) Amanda Dowling-mar Benjamin Franklin Massey.

(j) Jemimah Dowling-mar Benjamin Hildreth. They had thirteen children:

- (i) William C. Hildreth-mar Milly ? .
- (ii) Harriet D. Hildreth-mar Henry B. Grimes.
- (iii) Susan Hildreth-no further data.
- (iv) Travis Zaccheus Hildreth-1st mar Quincy Whittle-next mar Elizabeth S. Hayes.
- (v) Sarah Hildreth-mar M.J. Bailey.
- (vi) James Hildreth-mar Lou Folsom.
- (vii) Mary Hildreth-no further.



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- (viii) Martha M. Hildreth-no further.  
(ix) Frances Hildreth-born 1840-mar Elbert Curenton.  
(x) John W. Hildreth-KIA Civil War.  
(xi) Robert Henry Jackson Hildreth-1st mar Julia S. Hamner-next mar Annie Ruth Carmichael. "Jack" Carmichael had nine children by his 1st wife, and three by the 2nd.
- (3) Mary Ann Dowling-mar John (?) Stewart-no further.
- (4) Elizabeth (Betsy) Dowling-mar an Oglesby-she had one dau-Milly-no further.
- (5) Sarah Dowling-mar Frederick Lee (?).

Mr. E.H. Hayes of Ozark, Ala., deceased, spent many years taking the census of the cemeteries in this area. He was said to have made the statement that of all of the Dowlings buried in the area.....all but four...were descendants of Dempsey Dowling.

IF I HAD A BOY

If I had a boy, I would say to him,  
"Son, be fair and square in the race you must run;  
Be grave if you lose and be meek if you win.  
Be better and nobler than I've ever been.  
Be honest and fearless in all that you do,  
And honor the name I have given to you."

If I had a boy, I would want him to know  
That we reap in this life...just as we sow;  
And we get what we earn, be it little or great,  
Regardless of luck and regardless of fate.  
I'd teach him and show him the best that I could,  
That it pays to be honest and upright and good.

I would make him a pal and a partner of mine,  
And show him the things in this world that are fine.  
I'd show him the things that are wicked and bad,  
For I figure this knowledge should come from his Dad,  
I would walk with him, talk with him, too,  
And all of my promises strive to be true.

We would grow up together and I'd be a boy  
And share in his troubles and share in his joy;  
We would work out problems together and then,  
We would lay out our plans when we both would be men;  
And Oh! what a wonderful joy it would be,  
No pleasure in life could be greater to me.

But still more important, I'd lead him to know  
The Saviour whose blood washes whiter than snow.  
I'd tell him the story of Christ on the tree  
Who suffered for sinners that they might go free.  
I'd never stop praying in sorrow or joy  
Until...he found Jesus...if I had a boy!

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Robert Dowling, r/o Virginia to Pre. Rev. War Jeffer's Creek, Darlington Dist., SC.

- m. 1. Unknown  
m. 2. Sarah Guinn

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|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. William | 2. James<br>m. Mary Boutwell | 3. John b. 1759<br>m. Nancy Boutwell | 4. Mary Ann<br>m. John Stewart | 5. Elizabeth<br>m. Mr. Oglesby | 6. Sarah<br>m. Frederick Lee ? |
|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

William, only child of Robert & unknown Dowling  
m. Unknown

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|----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Jabez | 2. Micajah | 3. Elijah |
|----------|------------|-----------|

William was married when his father moved to SC. He later moved to Barwell Co., SC where he was killed by Tories. The whereabouts of his children is unknown.

William Hampton, s/o James & Mary (Boutwell) Dowling  
m. Elizabeth Sarah Watson

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- |  |                              |                |
|--|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. William. H. Jr.<br>m. Mahalia Ogden | 2. Mary<br>m. Gillum Walston | 3. 2 Daughters |
|--|------------------------------|----------------|

- |             |            |             |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 5. Margaret | 6. Frances | 7. Margaret |
|-------------|------------|-------------|

James, s/o Robert & Sarah (Guinn) Dowling  
m. Mary Boutwell

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. William<br>m. Eliz. S. Watson | 2. James<br>m. Jane White | 3. John Jabez b. 1782<br>m. Susan Barnes |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|

- |                               |             |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 4. Willis H.<br>m. Nancy Cook | 5. Daughter | 6. Daughter |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|

- |           |         |  |
|-----------|---------|--|
| 7. Lettie | 8. Mary | 9. Sarah<br>m. Edward Woodham<br>(to Dale Co., AL) |
|-----------|---------|--|

James, s/o James & Mary (Boutwell) Dowling  
m. Jane White

1

- |   |                          |                               |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. William Henry<br>m. Jane Ann Cleland | 2. John<br>(died age 15) | 3. Audrey<br>m. Charles Smith |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|

- |                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4. Rebecca<br>m. Mr. James | 5. Ellen<br>m. 2. Stephen Denmark |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|

John Stokes  
m. Lydia Ann, d/o John & Nancy Dowling

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Isaiah<br>m. Rebecca Gooden | 2. Jehu<br>m. Sarah --- | 3. Burrell C.<br>m. Elizabeth ---<br>m. Mary E. Marsh |
| 4. William<br>m. Amanda ---    | 5. John O.<br>m. Edy    | 6. Edwin<br>m. Martha Jane ---                        |

John b. 1759, R.S., s/o Robert & Sarah (Guinn) Dowling  
m. Nancy Boutwell

1

- |   |   |                                 |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Dempsey b. 1783<br>m. Martha Stokes                                    | 2. Elias b. 1787<br>m. Mary ---<br>m. Elizabeth Stewart | 3. Lydia Ann<br>m. John Stokes  |
| 4. Zacharias (no ch)<br>m. Eliza ---<br>m. Zadie Capp<br>m. Permelia Head | 5. Allen b. 1795<br>m. Polly Heath                      | 6. Rhoda<br>m. Henry Stokes     |
| 7. Simeon<br>(did not marry)  | 8. Levi<br>m. Ann ---                                   | 9. Jemimah<br>m. Benj. Hildreth |

Henry Stokes  
m. Rhoda, d/o John & Nancy Dowling

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. James Wilson<br>m. Martha Ann Lee | 2. Seaborn<br>m. Emma Simon Laney | 3. Martha<br>m. Phillip King |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|

Allen, s/o John & Nancy Dowling  
m. Polly Heath

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- |   |                                     |                      |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sarah<br>(died age 18)               | 2. Hester<br>m. 2. James N. Suggs   | 3. Daughter b. +1819 |
| 4. Francis Asbury<br>m. Martha C. Heath | 5. Samuel Sewall<br>m. Cornelia Ham |                      |

Ref: Article in "Pea River Trails" Vol. 13, #1.  
Located in the Gen. section of the Pascagoula City Library

See: A Dowling Family of the South  
by: Ray A. Dowling